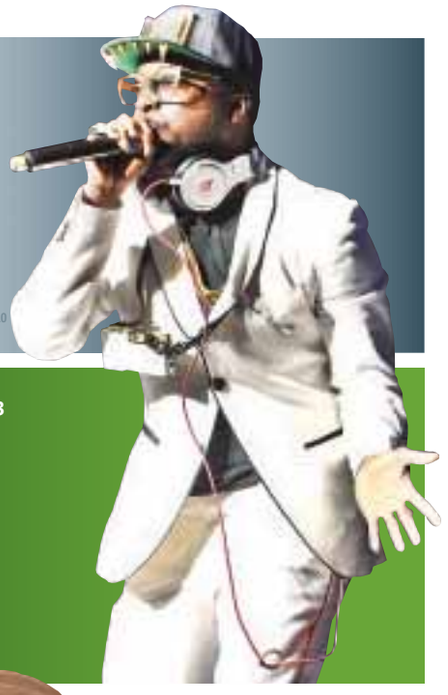
SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 9

Leafs show GM Burke the door

In a surprising move, the Toronto organization fired their general manager just days before the regular NHL season is to start PAGE 13

i.Dress to impress

From techcessories to 'treasure' threads, Will.i.am explains his fashionology to Metro PAGE 10



SASKATOON metro®

Thursday, January 10, 2013

News worth sharing.

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Going LUGO over the city's arts scene

A 'love letter.' Annual event at the Mendel Art Gallery celebrates Saskatoon's cultural output, from theatre to live music and more

JANE CAULFIELD
jane.caulfield@metronews.ca

What happens when you put local musicians, dancers and artists together under one roof and let them show off their talents for one night only?

You get LUGO — Saskatoon's annual cultural celebration, taking place this Saturday at the Mendel Art Gallery.

"It's sort of like a crash course in Saskatoon's cultural scene," said Troy Gronsdahl, a LUGO organizer and associate curator at the Mendel Art Gallery. "We've got performances from theatre, live music, film, dance. There's a very broad range of performances."

Gronsdahl said the event is a lot like a "love letter" to the vibrant and eclectic arts scene in Saskatoon.

"LUGO is a way for us to acknowledge all of the good work artists are doing in our community and it's a way to celebrate our artistic community," he said. "And hopefully events like this can foster and build the community."

This is the fourth year at the Mendel for LUGO, each year's edition a bigger draw than the last. In fact, this year's advance tickets sold out in a matter of days.

"The gallery, like everyone, is thrilled with the response that we've had," said Gronsdahl. "It's a testament to the strength of the arts community that we can get so many great artists together."

While advance tickets are sold out, organizers have set aside 50 tickets to sell at the door. If you make it on time to get one, it will cost you $25 and there is a limit of two per person. Doors open at 8 p.m.

Follow Jane Caulfield on Twitter @janecaulfield

What's in a name?

The name LUGO came to fruition after an email typo, and doesn't actually mean anything.

- Troy Gronsdahl, one of the event's organizers, said he believes the original planning team had thought of the latin word "iugo," which means to bind together, but after someone mistook the I for an L, the name stuck.

Local actress Jenna-Lee Hyde poses with a friend at the photo booth at last year's LUGO. This year's event, taking place Saturday, promises to be a memorable celebration of the Saskatoon arts scene. DAVE STOBBE/CONTRIBUTED

Cougar population on the rise in Saskatchewan

Grrrrrrrrrrrrrrr.
Estimates have current population at 300 to 400 big cats

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

Cougar advisories may become more common as the province says the number of cougars is growing in Saskatchewan.

RCMP issued a cougar advisory on Saturday for the town of Gravelbourg, roughly 300 kilometres southwest of Saskatoon, after several sightings near two elementary schools.

Rich Hildebrand, a conservation officer with the Ministry of Environment, said the number of sightings is on the rise, a sure sign of a growing population.

"We are seeing more confirmed sightings and more calls," Hildebrand said. "It looks like there is definitely an increase in numbers, but because of the type of animal they are, it's pretty tough to do an actual survey."

However, he insisted the increase isn't cause for concern.

Carl Morrison, a graduate student at the University of Alberta's Department of Biological Sciences, is researching the animals in the Cypress Hills and said there is potential for a growing cougar population in other parts of Saskatchewan that have sufficient habitat.

"In midwestern North America, over the last couple of decades, there has definitely been an increase in cougar sightings and confirmed cougar occurrences east of their contemporary range, and Saskatchewan would fall into that for sure," Morrison said.

He added that the Cypress Hills are considered the most eastern confirmed breeding population of the animals in Canada. As young males get older and become independent, they move away from their natal grounds and seek out new territory.

PUBLIC NOTICE
PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THERE
HAVE BEEN COUGAR SIGHTINGS
WITHIN THE RM OF CORMAN PARK
COUGARS ARE ELUSIVE ANIMALS AND MOST SIGH
OCCU WHEN THEY DO NOT HEAP
BACK

A knocked-down sign warns residents of the Rural Municipality of Corman Park to beware of cougars. The province says a recent rise in sightings is the sign of a population increase, but because the cats generally avoid humans, a formal survey would be a challenge. FLICKR.COM: SHEILA STEELE

Ross King is one of five authors vying for this year's Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saskatchewan's Ross King a finalist for non-fiction prize

Two books touching on politics and war and biographies on ballerina Celia Franca, poet P.K. Page and artist Leonardo da Vinci have made the short list for this year's $25,000 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction.

The five finalists announced on Wednesday include Warlords: Borden, Mackenzie King, and Canada's World Wars (Allen Lane) by Ottawa historian Tim Cook, who won the Charles Taylor Prize in 2009 for Shock Troops.

Also on this year's short list is Saskatchewan-born Ross King for Leonardo and The Last Supper (Bond Street Books), an examination of da Vinci's 15th-century religious mural. It won a Governor General's Literary Award in November.

Ontario native Andrew Preston is a contender for Sword of the Spirit, Shield of Faith: Religion in American War and Diplomacy (Knopf Canada).

Carol Bishop-Gwyn of Toronto is a finalist for The Pursuit of Perfection: A Life of Celia Franca (Cormorant Books), about the late founder of the National Ballet of Canada.

And Vancouver's Sandra Djwa made the cut with Journey with No Maps: A Life of P.K. Page (McGill-Queen's University Press).

Finalists were chosen from a field of 129 books submitted by 43 publishers from around the world. The winner — decided by jurors Susanne Boyce, Richard Gwyn and Joseph Kertes — will be announced on March 4 in Toronto. Last year's winner was Toronto author Andrew Westoll for The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary: A Canadian Story of Resilience and Recovery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Third annual study

Student health could be better: Survey

Our kids could be healthier: That's the conclusion of a student health survey that targeted children in Grade 5 to Grade 8.

The Saskatoon Health Region survey, which is in its third year, saw slight improvements in the areas of physical activity, bullying and mental health. But researchers say the 16.4 per cent of children reporting optimal physical health is still too low.

The research also shows that more than 60 per cent of students are not eating the recommended daily amount of fruits and vegetables.

The survey shows major discrepancies between students of low-income families and those from high-income families, suggesting a need for targeted programming at schools in poorer neighbourhoods.

The survey is used to help school divisions and the health region understand the health issues that Saskatoon students face and how income and geography influence their overall health.

METRO

Lac La Ronge

Man charged with making threats on Facebook

A trial date has been set for a man accused of using Facebook to threaten violence against employees of a Saskatchewan First Nation.

Fraser Daniel Cook, 40, will face trial on May 23 on one count of uttering threats. Cook, a member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, was arrested on Dec. 17 and is out on bail after entering a not-guilty plea.

RCMP Const. Matt Halstead said the alleged threats were made against people who work at the band office. He also said officials at Facebook have co-operated fully with the police investigation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/CJLR

Botched probe must spark change: Lawyer

Soldier suicide. Investigation designed to absolve military, argues retired colonel

The pain endured by the family of an Edmonton soldier who killed himself should be used as a springboard for changes to the treatment of veterans and their loved ones, the family's lawyer said Wednesday.

The investigations into the 2008 suicide of Cpl. Stuart Langridge were handled in an inept manner, retired colonel Michel Drapeau told the Military Police Complaints Commission hearing.

After eight months of work and 92 witnesses, the hearing ended Wednesday, with Drapeau and lawyers for the government pressing their cases for a final time.

The public interest hearing was convened following complaints from Langridge's family that the investigation into their son's death was biased and designed to absolve the military.

Langridge, a veteran of Afghanistan and Bosnia, hanged himself in March 2008 following treatment for drug and alcohol addiction in a civilian hospital.

The inquiry heard how military police concealed Langridge's suicide note from his parents for 14 months, claiming it was evidence in a suspicious-death probe. The investigators stuck to the line even though the coroner at the scene described it as a clear-cut case of suicide.

Had the note been released immediately, several subsequent complications — including difficulties figuring out who was Langridge's next of kin and what kind of funeral he wanted — could have been avoided, the hearing was told.

But the National Investigation Service has acknowledged it mishandled the note and has improved its procedures since, said Korinda McLaine, lawyer for the federal government.

"Although it may be tempting to look back on the investigations with the perfect lens of hindsight, that would not be fair to the subjects in this complaint," she said.

There were also conflicting claims about whether the troubled soldier was on a suicide watch prior to his death. If so, the military would have been liable for his death.

The inquiry also heard how the final military police report into the death was heavily rewritten and censored.

All of this was to protect the military, not respect Langridge or his family, Drapeau said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Unimpressed

"It has created an extra layer of pain ... that was preventable ... had a modicum of transparency, accountability and basic compassion been displayed."

Retired colonel Michel Drapeau on investigations into the suicide of Cpl. Stuart Langridge.

Hearing date set. Alleged murderer Luka Magnotta returns to the courtroom

A shackled Luka Rocco Magnotta remained impassive as he made his first court appearance since last June on a first-degree murder charge in the gruesome slaying of a Montreal university student.

Lawyers set the stage on Wednesday for a preliminary hearing beginning March 11.

The hearing, which will determine whether the 30-year-old Ontario native is sent to trial, is scheduled to last at least two weeks and possibly resume in June.

Magnotta is charged with first-degree murder in the slaying and dismemberment of Chinese engineering student Jun Lin last May.

Most of the contents of Wednesday's 35-minute hearing cannot be revealed because of a publication ban.

Magnotta faces other charges: Committing an indignity to a body; publishing obscene material; criminally harassing Prime Minister Stephen Harper and other members of Parliament; and mailing obscene and indecent material.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

An artist rendering of alleged killer Luka Rocco Magnotta in a Montreal court on Wednesday. MIKE MCLAUGHLIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Newtown shooting

Obama to take drastic action on gun control: VP

U.S. President Barack Obama intends to take serious action on gun control, even if it means circumventing Congress and issuing executive orders to do so, Joe Biden suggested Wednesday.

"The president is going to act," said the vice-president, who's heading a task force on gun control.

Last month's mass shooting in Newtown, Conn., has necessitated "immediate, urgent action," Biden added.

Obama hopes to announce his administration's gun-reform measures shortly after his inauguration on Jan. 21.

The inaugural weekend festivities might be disrupted by a coalition of conservative and gun-rights groups organizing a "Gun Appreciation Day" on the weekend of the inauguration. The group is calling on people to visit gun stores, gun ranges and gun shows with U.S. flags and "Hands off my gun" signs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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No Governor General? No Friday meeting, Chief Spence affirms

Hunger strike. First Nations leader calls on Queen to help get David Johnston in Friday meeting

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence abruptly changed her mind Wednesday, refusing to attend Friday's hard-won First Nations meetings with the federal government because Gov. Gen. David Johnston isn't planning to be there.

Spence — whose month-long protest on Victoria Island was predicated on winning a meeting with both Johnston and Prime Minister Stephen Harper — said she's written to Buckingham Palace to enlist the help of the Queen.

Social-media speculation that Johnston might change his mind was scotched Wednesday afternoon by a spokesperson for Rideau Hall: "As previously stated, the Governor General will not attend Friday's meeting. This has not changed."

Spence has been camped out on an island in the Ottawa River since Dec. 11, subsisting solely on fish broth and medicinal tea in hopes of convincing Harper and Johnston to sit down with First Nations leaders to discuss historical treaty rights.

Spence wants Johnston present at the meetings because the talks are supposed to focus on the treaty rights that were established by the Royal Proclamation of 1793, issued by King George III.

"We have sent a letter to Buckingham Palace, requesting that Queen Elizabeth II send forth her representative, which is the Governor General of Canada," she said in a statement.

A spokesperson for Johnston has said he would not attend the sessions on Friday because the gathering is a working meeting with government on public-policy issues.

The precise issues have yet to be defined. Some clarity was expected Wednesday from Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, but that news conference was rescheduled for Thursday shortly after Spence pulled out. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Idle No More

Enlisting social media

Social media has become a teaching tool for many, and one Alberta student is delving into how it can help teach and inspire an entire culture into action.

University of Alberta Native Studies student Kirsten Lindquist has launched a research project that looks at the role social media plays in indigenous scholars' work, but has also been following the Idle No More movement with great interest.

Lindquist said that social media, particularly Twitter, has helped Idle No More spread across the country by making it more accessible and relatable to both indigenous and non-indigenous persons. LAURIE CALLSEN/METRO

Killer whales fight for their lives in northern Quebec

Orcas surface for air in a small hole in the ice near Inukjuak, Que., on Wednesday. The community, in Quebec's Far North, wants Ottawa to deploy an icebreaker to free about a dozen of the whales cornered under a vast stretch of sea ice. Locals say the mammals have gathered around one hole in the ice — slightly bigger than a pickup truck — in their desperate bid to get oxygen. Mayor Peter Inukpuk believes a sudden drop in temperature recently caught the pod off guard, leaving them boxed in under the ice.

MARINA LACASSE/HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hudson Bay. Stranded hunters save rescuer from sinking helicopter

Two seal hunters who were stranded on an ice floe near the west shore of Hudson Bay ended up rescuing their rescuer.

Capt. Jill Strelieff with 1 Canadian Air Division says the rescue helicopter landed on the ice floe, but because of its weight, it broke through the ice.

She says the two hunters pulled the pilot out of the partially submerged helicopter.

Then two search-and-rescue technicians parachuted down from a Hercules to help the three.

A Griffon helicopter from Cold Lake, Alta., transported the hunters, the pilot and the two search-and-rescue technicians to Arviat, Nunavut.

Mounties say the hunters and the pilot are being treated for hypothermia and their injuries are not as bad as first feared. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Worthy investment. Poll shows Canadian support for arts and culture

An overwhelming majority of Canadians believe arts and culture is worthy of government support, according to the results of a poll commissioned by Canadian Heritage.

When asked: "How much importance do you think governments in Canada should place on supporting arts and culture in Canada?" 39 per cent chose "a great deal," while 48 per cent chose a "moderate amount." Nine per cent said "not very much" and three per cent responded "no importance at all." THE CANADIAN PRESS

National poll

57%

About 57 per cent of Canadians polled said they were personally involved in an artistic activity during the past 12 months.

Medicine. Falsely positive spin put on many drug trials, new study suggests

Not all patient drug trials published in even the most prestigious of medical journals can be taken as gospel, say researchers who have found a high proportion of "spin and bias" in the reporting of results.

Researchers at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre reviewed 164 breast-cancer trials. They found that in studies that reported no real benefit of treatment, a large proportion focused on less important outcomes to give a more positive spin to results.

Of 92 trials that had negative primary outcomes, about 60 per cent used some secondary measures, "often trying to make the study look positive, though it really was not," said medical oncologist Dr. Ian Tannock, who led the study published this week in the Annals of Oncology. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Commuting. Ferry strikes dock in Manhattan, injuring dozens, 11 badly

A high-speed ferry loaded with hundreds of commuters from New Jersey crashed into a dock in lower Manhattan on Wednesday during the morning rush hour, seriously injuring 11 people, including one who suffered a severe head wound falling down a stairwell.

Scores of people who had been standing, waiting to disembark, were hurled to the deck or launched into walls by the impact, which came after the catamaran Seastreak Wall Street slowed following a routine trip across New York Bay and past the Statue of Liberty, passengers said.

"We were pulling into the dock. The boat hit the dock. We just tumbled on top of each other. I got thrown into everybody else.... People were hysterical, crying," said Ellen Foran, 57, of Neptune City, N.J.

The collision, which ripped open a small part of the hull like an aluminum can, happened at 8:45 a.m. at a pier near the South Street Seaport at Manhattan's southern tip. Around 70 people suffered minor injuries, and for nearly two hours paramedics treated bruised and dazed passengers on the pier.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An injured passenger from the Seastreak Wall Street ferry is interviewed by a police officer in New York Wednesday. RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ride down Russian ski slope inside zorb ends in death

Denis Burakov, left, inside a large plastic ball called a zorb.
PROVIDED BY YEKATERINA ACHKASOVA /APTN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Burakov and a friend inside the zorb on Jan. 3 as they roll down a hill before tragedy struck. PROVIDED BY YEKATERINA ACHKASOVA /APTN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On video. Giant plastic ball flies off course, killing man and leaving friend badly injured

It was supposed to be a thrilling ride down a ski slope inside a giant inflatable ball, which is to be one of the symbols of next year's Winter Olympics; it ended in tragedy for the two Russian men inside.

The transparent plastic ball — known as a zorb — veered off course and sailed over a rock ledge in the rugged Caucasus Mountains of southern Russia. The ball picked up speed as it flew down the steep slope, rolling and bouncing. One man was killed and the other badly injured.

The man who died, 27-year-old Denis Burakov, was with friends at the Dombai ski resort, where they frequently went snowboarding, on Jan. 3 when he decided to take a ride in a zorb being operated next to a beginners' slope. His friend Vladimir Shcherbakov joined him.

An eight-minute video taken on Burakov's phone by one of his friends shows the two men being fitted into harnesses inside the zorb, which consists of two polyurethane balls with a layer of air between them. The zorb is then released to roll down the hill, the two men spinning inside.

But the zorb bounces off of the intended path, and a man waiting for it at the bottom of the hill tries in vain to catch the ball before it pops over a rocky ledge and disappears down a gorge below Mount Mussa-Achitara.

The person filming the video is heard swearing and asking "What's down there?" The answer from someone off camera: "It's a catastrophe down there." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"The transparency of zorbs also reflects the open, accessible and inclusive society that Sochi 2014 Games is helping to build."

Dmitry Chernyshenko, head of the organizing committee, speaking in 2010.

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Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.25¢ (-0.10¢)

TSX 12,522.24 (+17.43)

OIL $93.10 US (-$5¢)

GOLD $1,655.50 US (-$6.70)

Natural gas: $3.11 US (-10.5¢)
Dow Jones: 13,390.51 (+61.66)

Speculation

Will Apple make a cheaper iPhone?

A published report says Apple may introduce a cheaper iPhone in an effort to reclaim some of the sales that the company has been losing to less expensive handsets running on Google's Android software.

A story in The Wall Street Journal speculates that Apple could lower the iPhone's price by equipping the device with an exterior that costs less than the aluminum housing on current models. The Journal cites unnamed people briefed on the matter. Apple declined to comment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Licence amendment

Areva can process high-grade ore from Sask. mine

Nuclear giant Areva Resources Canada has been given the go-ahead to process high-grade ore from its Cigar Lake mine in northern Saskatchewan.

The company has received a licence amendment for its McClean Lake mill from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. That means Areva can operate the receiving and milling circuits for high-grade ore and increase the annual capacity of the mill. The change also allows Areva to receive and process ore from the McArthur River mine. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lump it! Half of Canadians pay into RRSPs all at once

March 1 deadline. But stress of saving would be reduced by putting aside smaller sums throughout year, new survey finds

Canadians who are stressed about the annual RRSP deadline are not alone, according to a new study that found 60 per cent of respondents feel anxious about coming up with the money for their retirement savings.

And almost half of respondents to the survey — 49 per cent — who make an annual RRSP contribution do so in a lump sum, said the Bank of Montreal study.

The uneasiness around the March 1 deadline is understandable when Canadians have to deal with other financial priorities, said Marlena Pospiech, senior manager with BMO Wealth Planning Group.

"If they haven't saved regularly it could be really hard, especially coming out of the holiday season and if they have racked up a lot of debt over that time," Pospiech said.

The study also found 54 per cent of those surveyed would feel less stressed if they made regular RRSP contributions throughout the year to meet the deadline. THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

$4,670

BMO said that the average amount contributed to a registered retirement savings plan in 2011 was $4,670. Putting aside just under $400 a month in a continuous savings plan for an RRSP would generate that amount.

End of an era. So long Messenger, hello Skype

Those nostalgic for the days of overly personal status updates and usernames with alternating caps may be disappointed by Microsoft's latest move to retire its once-dominant MSN/Windows Live Messenger.

Accounts will be migrated over to Skype during the course of the first quarter of 2013, according to a blog post from Tony Bates, president of Microsoft's Skype division. The software giant purchased Skype in 2011.

The march toward the Great Recycling Bin in the Sky started weeks ago for Messenger, when newly released Skype 6.0 allowed users to sign on with their Microsoft account.

Microsoft is moving users from its doomed Messenger service over to Skype. GETTY IMAGES

To make the move from Messenger, users can simply download the latest version of Skype and log in. The software will take care of the rest. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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IT'S ALL IN THE GAME — TIME TO MAKE UP

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/voices/he-says

Yes, yes: I'm deeply shocked that people who make a lot of money are greedy, especially professional athletes and corporate owners, two groups that have such a strong record of selflessness.

Now pipe down. The game's on.

I'm unequivocally, unapologetically ecstatic the NHL is back from its four-month lockout. This apparently makes me a sheep, according to many bitter fans and newspaper columnists. Baa, baa, go Bruins.

I suffered as much as the next person — my local bar replaced hockey with '80s karaoke — but I know that any ill feelings will melt away for me as soon as the puck is dropped. Sorry.

If you're still bitter, you at least have some goodies coming your way. The NHL knows it has some making up to do and has announced a series of initiatives to help win back fans who are sore with the league. I've obtained a copy of their game plan, highlights of which are printed below.

NHL Fan Redemption Program: Don't Look Back in Fan-ger

Keep the goodies coming

Fans to get premium interest rates for any loans used at games to buy hotdogs and beer.

• "Thank you, fans" messages plastered throughout league will have not one, not two, not three but FOUR exclamation points, to show it's not hollow. They will be placed not just on the ice but also in other places where they can be easily viewed, such as on the seats in Phoenix.

• Ilya Bryzgalov, Tim Thomas and Paul Bissonnette to lead league-wide seminars on dealing with the media.

• The league hopes to put a positive spin on the work stoppage with a free download of Stompin' Tom Connor's little-heard Hockey Related Revenue Song. ("Hello out there, Bettman and Fehr; it's lockout night tonight. The Make Whole's closed and the pension grows, but the NHL's on ice…")

• Fans to get premium interest rates for any loans used at games to buy hotdogs and beer.

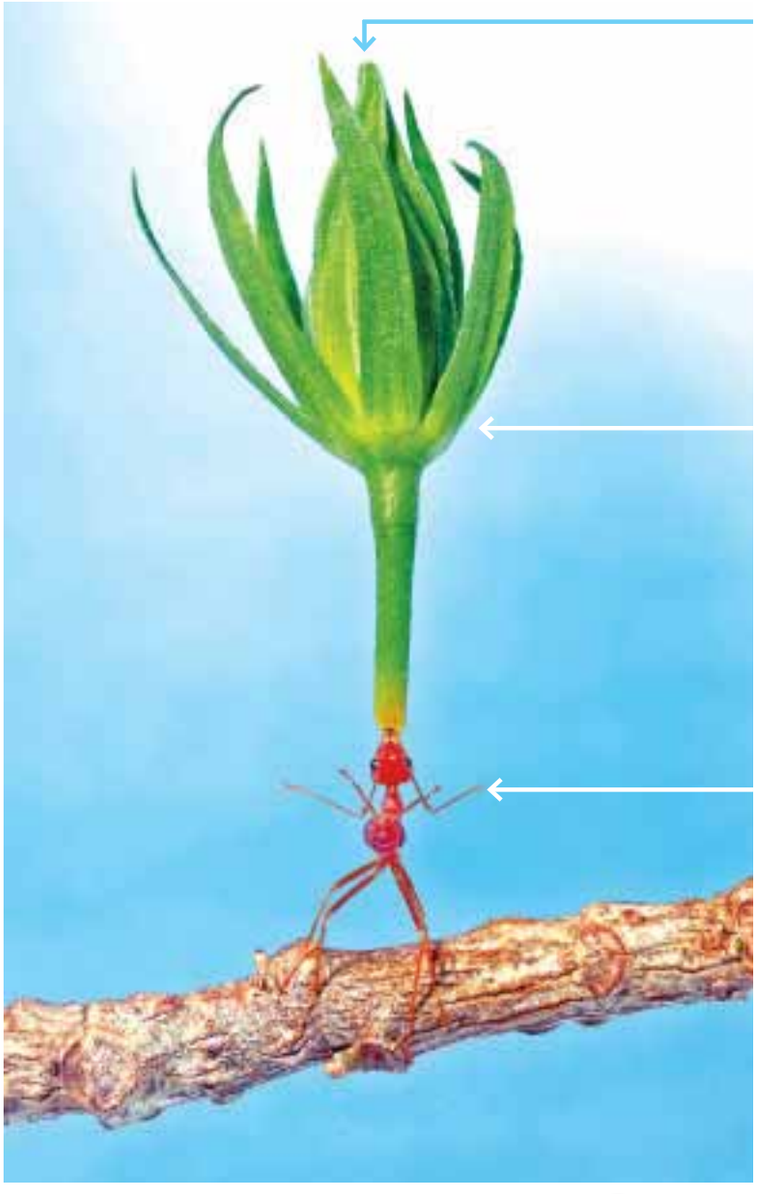
• The NHL will expand further to Corpus Christi, Texas, and Mobile, Ala., so that the current expansion teams don't seem so ridiculous. Other possibilities include Mexico, Japan and the molten-hot core of the earth. Anything but Hamilton.

• Half-price coupons for the season-ticket holders in Anaheim: specifically, David and Jennifer Boyd of 1058 Sunnyside Ave., Anaheim, Calif.

• Make NHL Centre Ice free, UNLESS revenue is less than $2.2 billion this season, in which case part of an NHL Centre Ice fund will go into escrow, which would then be distributed to Make Whole production costs, provided fans don't decide to file a disclaimer of interest, in which case ...

• Gary Bettman leaving NHL to take over NASCAR. His first goal will be to expand the sport into blue states and Canada.

Straight from the ant's mouth



Mighty balancing act

Insect shows off towering feat

This red ant puts on a show of incredible strength and balance as it lifts a large flower bud above its head. The insect stood on its hind legs and balanced the green shoot with its mouth as it sauntered across the tree branch. Photographer Lessy Sebastian, 48, spotted the ant near his mother's house in Jakarta, Indonesia.

METRO WORLD NEWS

This bud's for you

"I got the idea to replace one of the leaves they were carrying with a little flower bud."

Lessy Sebastian, photographer.

Sebastian intentionally added the flower bud to the pile of leaves the ants were gathering and sat back and waited for one to pick it up.

Ant facts

- **Legendary strength.** A leaf-cutter ant can carry a leaf 50 times its body weight.
- **As old as dinosaurs.** Harvard scientists estimate that ants first arose in the mid-Cretaceous period — about 110-130 million years ago.
- **Population.** Experts reckon ants number up to 10 quadrillion (10,000,000,000,000,000) — more than 140,000 times the human population.

Say your piece

Which token will lose its Free Parking spot?

The gig is almost up for one of the eight Monopoly tokens. But which will it be? Iron? Thimble? Top Hat?

Or another of their board-game buddies?

Hasbro is holding a Facebook contest to eliminate one of the eight tokens that identify the players and introduce a new one. Possible new tokens include a cat, diamond ring, guitar, toy robot and helicopter.

So if you are tired of the iron token and would rather be represented by a robot, here's your chance to make those wishes known.

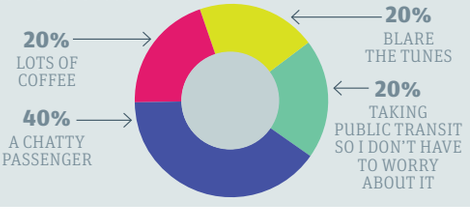
Facebook fans of Monopoly can vote on which piece to eliminate and which one to add. The voting ends Feb. 5.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

One in 24 U.S. adults have admitted to falling asleep behind the wheel. What's your best tip for staying alert on the road?



Twitter

@mcouros:
I feel a new hash tag coming #chiefspencedemands

@Heather_Mo:
Things I've lost this winter: green headband, a white mitt, a red glove and a very-important-to-me heart-shaped earring. #myinnermomispissed

@Jeffdotca:
Tsk Tsk @ChiefSpence ... Ordering the removal of media from your reserve? Optics! Let the media go there or you lose the moral high ground!

@iChris:
Nothing says "Superstitious" like Stevie Wonder at 9:15am in a mall.

@MacPhersonA:
This morning, I thought I saw a polar bear savaging a man. Then I realized it was just a guy playing with his St. Bernard.

metro

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Tyler, Dwayne and Lawrence Brass form the Saskatoon hip hop group Brown Can Shine. SIMON HIATT/FOR METRO

Local hip hop trio shine on

Brown Can Shine. It's not South Central, but growing up at 20th and Avenue H gave brothers plenty of material to work with

BACKSTAGE PASS
Simon Hiatt
saskatoon@metronews.ca

The inner-city gave birth to hip hop and rap and while the struggles in the Bronx and South Central Los Angeles are well known to fans of the genres, Saskatoon's own core neighbourhood is now receiving the same attention.

Brothers Lawrence "Aztec" Brass, Dwayne "Dat Boy" Brass and Tyler "T Why" Brass teamed up to form a unique family business; Brown Can Shine.

"We started way back in the day, maybe seven years ago," said oldest brother Lawrence, 23. "Then three years ago we started getting serious and decided we wanted to make a career out of this."

Raised near 20th Street and Avenue H, among Saskatoon's poorest areas, the group members say they have had plenty of source material to draw on growing up.

"There's always fights going on, gang stuff, we've never had much trouble, but we've seen a lot of stuff go on," said 19-year-old Tyler.

The brothers are quick to admit they aren't perfect and a lot of their music deals with their own struggles with alcohol and relationships, among other issues. But they believe they have matured along the way, a development that has been paralleled by their music.

"In the beginning (the music) was about everything, whatever came into our heads," said 22-year-old Dwayne.

"We just put whatever words rhymed together because we were learning. Now we have a better sense of how to write and make a story, have more of a message," added Lawrence.

They hope to show that positive things can come from dark places, which is reflected in their name.

"I thought of it one night when I was coming into the city and I saw one of those Saskatoon Shines signs, and I thought it made sense because we're First Nations; Brown Can Shine," said Lawrence.

"We hope it will inspire other young kids like us to stick to their goals."

The group's success should also serve as inspiration; they have received some radio and club play and hope to record an album this year.

But they say helping their community succeed is just as important as any musical achievements. They have been involved in safe driving and anti-bullying campaigns and also helped raise money to fight prostate cancer in honour of their late grandfather.

"Growing up things weren't given to us, we've had to work for it," said Dwayne.

"When we make it we're definitely going to give back even more."

Hip hop history

One of hip hop's pioneering artists, Grandmaster Melle Mel, is also of Aboriginal descent as his mother is Cherokee. He was the first rapper to refer to himself as MC.

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Justin Bieber ALL GETTY IMAGES

After another fight Gomez is 'done' with Bieber

Justin Bieber has been having a turbulent 2013 so far, and it may all stem from his failed attempts to patch things up with Selena Gomez. The pair reportedly embarked on a New Year's getaway to Puerta Vallarta, Mexico, but Gomez left before any champagne bottles could be opened, according to Us Weekly. "They had another huge fight, and Selena won't forgive him," a source says of Gomez, who flew home Dec. 30. "Selena is done with him."

Eva Mendes and Ryan Gosling

Gosling's mom given key to Eva Mendes' closet

Ryan Gosling's girlfriend, Eva Mendes, didn't make it to the Gangster Squad premiere earlier this week, but some of her stuff did at least. "My mother's wearing all my girlfriend's clothes," Gosling, who brought along mom Donna as his date, told E! News. Donna, donning a short dress and elaborate trench coat, confirmed, "I'm wearing Eva Mendes. She let me raid her closet."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

An opinion on what The Bachelor is really thinking

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

In Touch magazine has "exclusive pics" of the "sexiest bachelor ever" in this week's edition. The mag shows this season's star of The Bachelor, Sean Lowe, with his torso wrapped in a blue towel as he channels his inner Angelina in an undisclosed shower somewhere.

After he covered up, he gave an insightful interview to the magazine. (Just kidding! It was a totally generic chat!) Lowe, who is a former linebacker and works as an insurance salesman, says he is "very hopeful that I'll meet a great girl" on the show. "I would love to get married. I'm absolutely ready for love."

As he whittles down the pool of 26 single, desperate women to his one true love on national television, he has an idea of what he is looking for. "She has to be genuine, want the same things I want, and have a great sense of humour," he says.

Just for once, I wish these guys would speak the truth: "I'm looking for someone who is as fame-hungry yet dim-witted as I am, who will pretend to be my girlfriend for the allotted time our contract spells out. She should also be skinny and look like a professional dancer from Reno. Not eating my arm in my sleep due to starving herself through most of her 20s is also a bonus."

Lindsay Lohan

Lohan's mother blames Lindsay's dad for their daughter's problems

Dina Lohan says all of daughter Lindsay Lohan's problems can be blamed on Michael Lohan being an awful husband. "Lindsay saw her dad abuse me. That's why she's so screwed up," Dina tells the New York Daily News. "She saw a lot of crazy stuff. I want the world to know the root of her problems." Michael, for his part, refutes the claims. "She's bringing this up now because she's drinking and partying with Lindsay," he says. "And she keeps robbing Lindsay. She is the devil."

Twitter

@rihanna
I bet you wanna know what Im all about

@Sethrogen
They may have made a disgusting mockery of news media as we know it, but Fox has put together one hell of a Tuesday lineup.

@RebelWilson
I got dressed in the dark this morning (weirdly, I look better than usual..maybe I should cut off the electricity more often?)

@SethMacFarlane
Just want to point out that the dinner party in "The Hobbit" is the same length as an actual dinner party.

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THE DOUBLE DOUBLE EVENT

SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Will, here I am!

Oh, this right here? When Will.i.am. gets dressed, he wants you to notice his clothes — and gadgets too. He talks techcessories, Kanye West and Japanese fashion.

RICHARD PECKETT
life@metronews.ca

Will.i.am's foto.sosho is being marketed as the world's first digital camera and app combination for the iPhone 4s and iPhone 5. It transforms phones into a digital cameras with photo filters, image editing and instant social media upload.
PROVIDED

"It's like warp speed now and BOOM! It's pretty exciting." That's how Will.i.am describes taking his i.am+ iPhone accessory from conception to the shop floor in just seven months. We're sitting in a recording studio in London talking about his love of gadgets and fashion, which, by the way, hasn't gone unnoticed amongst his music pals.

DJ David Guetta describes him as "a bit of a crazy scientist who has difficulty with only doing one thing at a time." So true. Right now, his long list of side projects include appearing as a judge on Britain's version of The Voice, an album with Guetta and a X-Factor-style television show that he plans to release in late 2013.

What were you trying to achieve with the i.am+ project?
Let's take a tourist with their camera and their sense of odyssey, documentation and pleasure and turn this into a cool, wearable camera. It's an iPhone case that actually serves a functional purpose — it's phone, function and fashionology. Personalization, customization and rare oddities are the season right now. You can have anything right now, but what about limitation and exclusivity? You don't want to go all the way Steampunk because Steampunk is like super, super, super, dooper rare. What I mean is, the design has to pay tribute to limitation and functionality.

A lot of celebrities branch out into design and fashion, why do you think it's becoming so commonplace?
You want my honest opinion? Their manager told them that they could make some money here.

Like who?
I don't want to put people under a bus.

What do you think of Kanye West's line?
Kanye, I see his passion and I understand his passion. He's going to figure it out.

Is that your way of saying his clothing line still needs some work?
No, Kanye's game is that he wants to design. He's saying, "I want you guys to see my stuff." That's dope, right? He's not playing the usual (celebrity) game — he's passionate.

Would you buy any of his designs?
Yeah, because I like going for treasures. I want people to say, "Where did you get that?" "Oh, this right here? This is one of Kanye's pieces." I got it. They're conversation pieces.

Speaking of conversation pieces, you collaborated on a collection with the Japanese label Rynshu. How did you discover the line?
I was that guy who said, "Where did you get that? Rynshu? What the hell's Rynshu? Can you text it to me?"

What kind of guy wears Rynshu?
Tech-savvy, fashion-forward people. Invisible tastemakers.

Sounds like you. You've had a few different looks over the years. How do you know when it's time to change it up?
When you see this silhouette (points to himself) out multiple times on people that you probably wouldn't want to hang out with. That's why I hit up Rynshu, Loveless, Verbal and Yoon in Japan. I go to all the little cool spots that are rare enough, so I don't look like everybody else. I need to have some oddities, dude!

How would you describe your look at the moment?
Short in the back, long in the front, draping on top and skinny on the bottom — with big shoes.

THE MAN'S MANY LOOKS

If each outfit were a song, what would Will.i.am call it?

"I'd call that one Ghetto Egypt. It's fit but loose. I like different shades of black and gold. Right now, all the kids are rocking two chains, so I'm rocking five."

BOTH PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

"I'd call this look, Peace. (Laughs) Err, we were being fun and young. No ... no, I wouldn't wear that now."

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Halifax

Katie Tower
Graphic designer
Age: 26

What she's wearing
Club Monaco coat, Madewell shirt, Urban Outfitters necklace, H&M skirt, Hansel from Basel tights, Boots from Soula in Brooklyn, Topshop purse.

Her inspiration
"I dress for my mood and the weather. I also take inspiration from blogs and stylish people I see on the street."

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: MEGHAN TANSEY WHITTON, FASHIONEASTHALIFAX.COM

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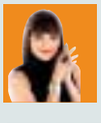

JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

IN THIS HECTIC MODERN WORLD, TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE.

@Jeanne_Beker: Attention foodies: Feast your eyes on Chef Damon Campbell's scrumptious creation for @shangrilato

@Jeanne_Beker: Some of my favourite old evening bags! Showing off my collection @theloopca Stay tuned...

Showing your home? Make it perfect

It takes more than just luck to sell your house. With proper evaluation of both your property and the current market, your chances of success are greatly increased. But many factors can ultimately contribute to a successful showing/sale of your home. Here are five tips you might consider when selling your largest financial asset, from Todd Talbot Host of Love It or List It Vancouver. The show premiered Monday on W Network.

First impressions

Many folks forget the first impression! Even before a buyer sees your home, they need to get through the front door. Make sure that the key and the lock work effortlessly. Don't leave instructions to "pull hard on the door, jiggle the key to the left, then quickly to the right". First question I'd be thinking: "What else is wrong with this place?"

Be prepared

Make sure everyone living at the house is aware when showings are scheduled. The buyer and the Realtor knock, then audibly announce their arrival, but you can't hear because you are in the shower. Wandering out of the shower as potential buyers are wandering down the hall is awkward. It happens!

Appropriate presentation

Ensure the house has an appropriate presentation. False teeth on the bedside table, or a camera on a tripod pointed at the bed tend to draw focus away from the house. Make sure that the house — and only the house — is the most memorable aspect of the tour.

Know your weaknesses

Do you really want to be at the meeting when the offer is presented? Will you be helpful to the negotiations or harmful? Can you control your emotional response? Are you so friendly and chatty that you detract from the process? Know your strengths and above all, know your weaknesses and discuss a strategy with your Realtor. Remember that while your home is your pride and joy, ultimately the sale of that home is a business transaction. And that can be hard emotionally. Your Realtor is a professional who acts on your instructions. Sometimes the best choice is to let your agent negotiate reporting back to you when a decision needs to be made.

Plan the closing day

Pick dates for completion and possession that allow you to seamlessly move into your new home. It's not ideal to have to keep all your worldly possessions in a moving truck for a few days while you wait for your new house. So have a plan in mind that you discuss with your Realtor in advance of receiving an offer.

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Cure the winter blahs with Italian-style Onion Soup with Poached Egg

1. In a large saucepan over medium heat, cook the pancetta until it is golden. Transfer it to a plate using a slotted spoon.

2. Return the saucepan to medium heat. Add the olive oil and onions, then cook, covered but stirring occasionally, until very soft, about 20 minutes. Remove the cover and cook, stirring frequently, for another 35 to 45 minutes, or until the onions are golden brown and caramelized. Add the wine and boil until it is reduced by half. Add the broth and simmer for another 20 minutes.

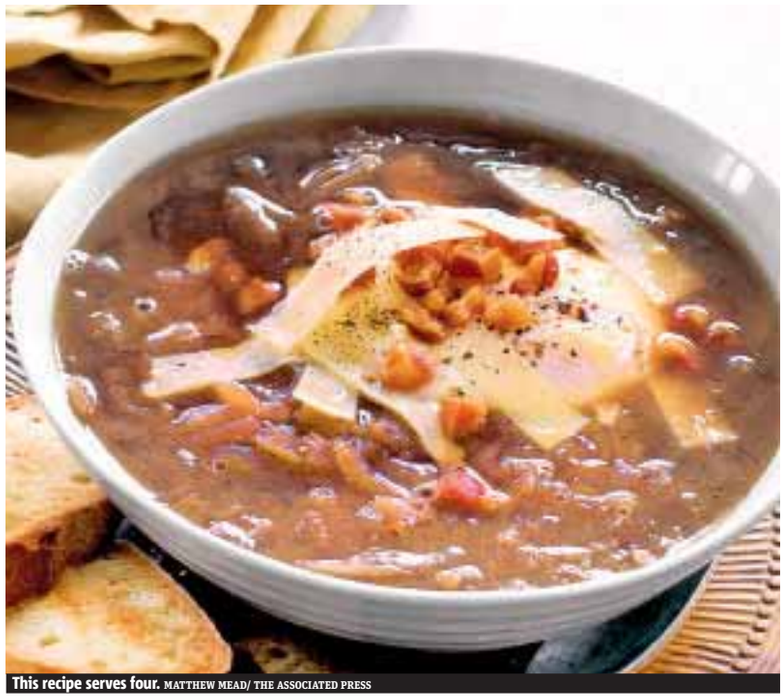
3. Bring a large saucepan of salted water to a low simmer. Add the vinegar.

4. Crack each egg into a small glass. One at a time, gently and slowly pour each egg into the simmering water, bringing the lip of the glass right down to the water so that the egg slides in. Depending on the size of your pan, you may need to cook them in 2 batches. Cook for 4 minutes, then use a slotted spoon to lift each egg out (letting excess water drip away).

5. To serve, ladle the soup into 4 bowls. Top each with a poached egg, sprinkle with some of the cheese, some of the pancetta and pepper to taste. Serve each portion with 2 toasts on the side. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON, AUTHOR OF THREE COOKBOOKS, INCLUDING SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.**

Ingredients

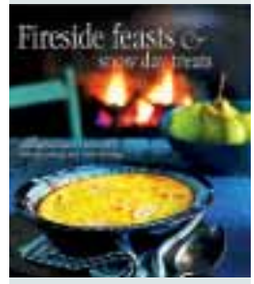
- 2 oz chopped pancetta
- 3 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 lbs yellow onions, thinly sliced
- 1 cup red wine
- 5 cups low-sodium beef or chicken broth
- Kosher salt
- 1 tbsp white or cider vinegar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 1/2 oz Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, finely grated (about 1/2 cup)
- Ground black pepper
- Eight 1/2-inch-thick baguette slices, toasted



This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cookbook of the Week

Foods that will warm you right up



When it's chilly outside, we crave those comfort foods. In Fireside Feasts & Snow Day Treats, you get plenty of warming dishes, including Over-braised Lamb Shanks with Potatoes and Tomatoes, Steak and Blue Cheese Salad, Chicken Pot Pie with Tarragon and Leeks, Hazelnut Cheesecake Bars and more.

The book makes the most of the finest seasonable ingredients, is beautifully illustrated and boasts sections such as: Snow Day Snacks, Cold Day Comforts, Fireside Feasts, Winter Salads, Indulgent Treats and A Cup of Cheer. **METRO**

The perfect end to a winter meal: Sticky Toffee Pudding

Sticky toffee pudding drenched in aromatic rum sauce is simple and tastes totally decadent.

1. In saucepan, place dates in water. Bring to a boil and simmer over low heat for a couple of minutes. Set aside.

2. In a bowl, cream together butter, sugar and vanilla. Beat in eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add in molasses and syrup and beat well.

3. In separate bowl, sift together flour and baking powder.

4. Add dry ingredients to creamed mixture in 3 equal portions, mixing until smooth after each addition. In a food processor, puree date mixture, then add baking soda. Add to batter and mix until smooth.

5. Pour batter into well-greased muffin tins. Do not overfill; you want to avoid a "muffin top." Bake in a 180 C (350 F) oven for 20 minutes. When making this dessert, it's better to err on the side of slightly under-baked rather than over-baked. Should be removed from oven as soon as centres are firm.

6. For sauce: In a large pot, melt brown sugar and butter together over medium heat. Allow to come to a rolling boil and cook for 2 minutes. Add cream in a slow steady stream (this will cause a bit of sputtering). Once cream is incorporated, stir in rum and return to a boil; cook for another 5 minutes, watching carefully to ensure sauce does not boil over. Serve warm and refrigerate any leftovers.

7. Top each serving with rum sauce and whipped cream. Garnish with a festive cookie. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ TASTE OF NOVA SCOTIA, TASTEOFNOVASCOTIA.COM**

Ingredients

- 250 g (8 oz) chopped pitted dates
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) water
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) butter
- 250 ml (1 cup) firmly packed brown sugar
- 10 ml (2 tsp) vanilla extract
- 2 extra-large eggs
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) molasses
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) golden syrup
- 400 ml (1 2/3 cups) flour
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) baking powder
- 5 ml (1 tsp) baking soda
- Whipped cream and cookie, for garnish

Divine Rum Sauce

- 500 ml (2 cups) brown sugar
- 250 ml (1 cup) butter
- 250 ml (1 cup) heavy cream
- 60 ml (2 oz) rum (preferably dark)

This recipe serves 12. THE CANADIAN PRESS HANDOUT

Country Chicken Casserole. Cold January days call for comfort eats

1. In a large saucepan, heat 10 ml (2 tsp) of the oil over medium heat. Sauté garlic, leek, carrots, parsnips, mushrooms, 4 ml (3/4 tsp) of the thyme, salt and pepper for 6 minutes or until vegetables are tender-crisp.

2. Whisk flour into milk; gradually stir into saucepan along with broth and mustard. Cook, stirring, for 5 minutes or until bubbling and thickened. Remove from heat. Stir in chicken and peas. Spoon into a 2-l (8-cup) baking dish.

3. In a bowl, toss bread with remaining oil and thyme until coated; sprinkle over chicken mixture. Bake in a 220 C (425 F) oven for 12 to 14 minutes or until bread is toasted and sauce is bubbling. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/FOODLAND ONTARIO**

Ingredients

- 20 ml (4 tsp) olive oil, divided
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 leek (white and light green parts), chopped
- 250 ml (1 cup) each sliced carrots and parsnips
- 250 ml (1 cup) quartered mushrooms
- 6 ml (1 1/4 tsp) dried thyme leaves, divided
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) each salt and pepper
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) all-purpose flour
- 250 ml (1 cup) 1 per cent milk
- 250 ml (1 cup) sodium-reduced chicken broth
- 10 ml (2 tsp) Dijon mustard
- 500 ml (2 cups) shredded cooked chicken or turkey
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) frozen peas
- 500 ml (2 cups) torn whole-wheat bread pieces

Bettman to fans: 'I'm sorry'

NHL. Commissioner makes clear he intends to celebrate his 20th anniversary in role on Feb. 1 and remain in office long beyond that

With the third lockout on his watch finally nearing its end, Gary Bettman appeared a humble and apologetic man.

The NHL commissioner told fans, players and sponsors that he was sorry the start of the season was delayed by more than three months. The apology came in the form of an unexpected "personal statement" delivered to reporters Wednesday after he announced that owners had unanimously voted in favour of ratifying the new collective bargaining agreement.

"To the players who were very clear they wanted to be on the ice and not negotiating labour contracts, to our partners who support the league financially and personally, and, most importantly, to our fans, who love and have missed NHL hockey, I'm sorry," said Bettman. "I know that an explanation or an apology will not erase the hard feelings that have built up over the past few months but I owe you an apology nevertheless."

It was the first public sign the NHL was ready to start rebuilding an image tarnished by more labour disputes over the last 20 years than any of the other North American pro sports leagues.

This was Bettman as he's rarely seen. Standing behind a podium in the same hotel where he had a notorious blow-up during a press conference last month, the contrite commissioner took his medicine. It might have been his only choice.

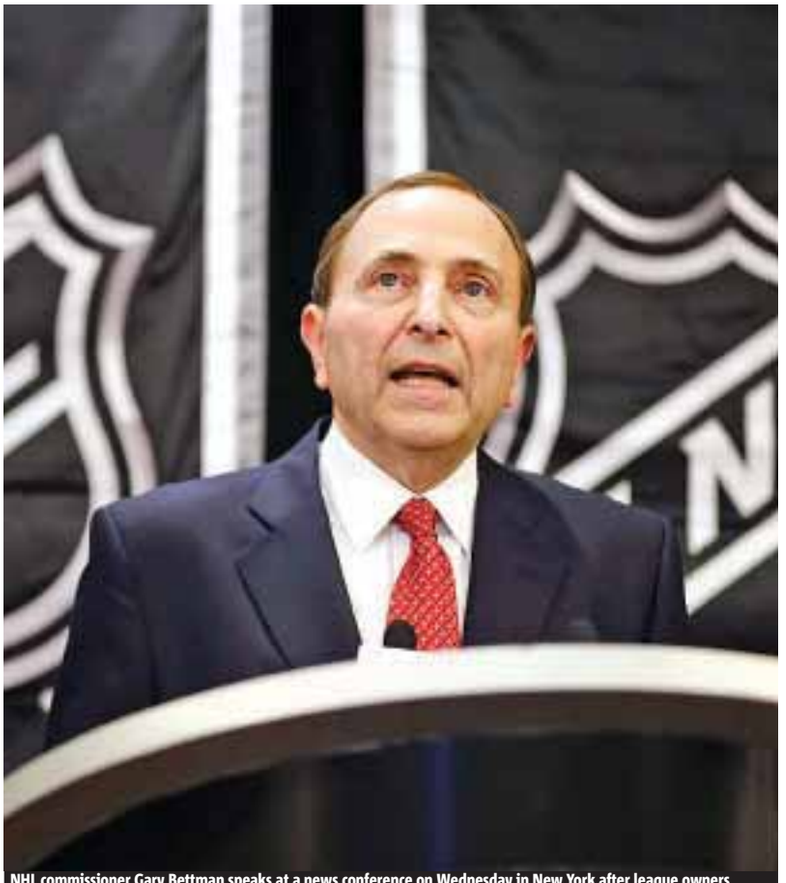
Bettman was publicly labelled everything from a "cancer" to an "idiot" by players during the course of negotiations that stretched over six months.

The commissioner wouldn't give details about what the league would do to make it up to the fans, but said there are plans in the works.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Players set to vote

- The players aren't expected to start their own ratification vote until Friday. It will be conducted electronically over two days and needs majority support from the roughly 740 union members to pass.
- If all goes to plan, the process would be completed by Saturday and training camps would open around the league on Sunday.



NHL commissioner Gary Bettman speaks at a news conference on Wednesday in New York after league owners ratified the tentative labour deal. FRANK FRANKLIN II/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leafs fire GM Burke in dramatic fashion

Newly-appointed Toronto Maple Leafs general manager Dave Nonis attends a news conference in Toronto on Wednesday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brian Burke's colourful tenure as general manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs was never short on drama.

So it only seemed fitting his departure from the team would shock the entire hockey world.

The Leafs dropped the bombshell Wednesday, announcing they had relieved the fiery Burke of his duties as president and general manager and replaced him with his right-hand man, Dave Nonis.

While the Leafs had never reached the playoffs during Burke's four seasons at the helm, the timing of the move was surprising given it comes just days before the start of the lockout-shortened season.

But Tom Anselmi, the president of Maple Leafs Sports and Entertainment, said the decision had been talked about for months following an extensive review of the hockey club by Anselmi and the new ownership group.

"The news is coming as a shock but I don't think the decision has happened overnight," Anselmi told a packed, hastily assembled news conference at the Air Canada Centre. "It's a conversation that's been ongoing and we came to a decision.

"Once we got to that decision I'm a firm believer it's only fair to make the decision and move forward."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New owners wield axe

The sale of MLSE to BCE and Rogers Communications was finalized in August.

- Anselmi said the operational review began sometime after that.

Davis Cup

Levine has to wait to represent Canada on court

Tennis player Jesse Levine is flying the Maple Leaf but he'll have to wait until later this year before making his Davis Cup debut for Canada.

Levine, who was born in Ottawa but moved to the U.S. at age 13, recently decided he would prefer to play for his native country and Tennis Canada petitioned the International Tennis Federation on his behalf.

However, ITF rules dictate that there is a 90-day waiting period from the time a player applies to change nationalities before they can represent their new country in international competition. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jesse Levine METRO FILE

NFL

RG3 has ACL, LCL injuries repaired

The doctor who performed the knee surgery on Robert Griffin III says it is "everybody's hope and belief" the Washington Redskins quarterback will be ready for the 2013 season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Knicks' Anthony banned 1 game

Carmelo Anthony has been suspended one game by the NBA for confronting Kevin Garnett near the Celtics' team bus after the New York Knicks' loss to Boston on Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

Barry Bonds appeared on 36.2 per cent of the ballots.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Sammy Sosa appeared on 12.5 per cent of the ballots.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Hall of Fame doors closed to Clemens, Bonds, Sosa and co.

Baseball. Not a single high-profile player from steroids era elected for trip to Cooperstown

No one was elected to the Hall of Fame this year. When voters closed the doors to Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa, they also shut out everybody else.

For only the second time in four decades, baseball writers failed to give any player the 75 per cent required for induction to Cooperstown, sending a powerful signal that stars of the steroids era will be held to a different standard.

All the awards and accomplishments collected over long careers by Bonds, Clemens and Sosa could not offset suspicions those feats were boosted by performance-enhancing drugs.

Voters also denied entry Wednesday to fellow newcomers Craig Biggio, Mike Piazza and Curt Schilling, along with holdovers Jack Morris, Jeff Bagwell and Lee Smith.

Among the most honoured players of their generation, these standouts won't find their images among the 300 bronze plaques on the oak walls in Cooperstown, where — at least for now — the doors appear to be bolted shut on anyone tainted by PEDs.

Bonds, Clemens and Sosa retired after the 2007 season. They were eligible for the Hall for the first time and have up to 14 more years on the writers' ballot.

"I'm kind of glad that nobody got in this year," Hall of Famer Al Kaline said. "I feel honoured to be in the Hall of Fame. And I would've felt a little uneasy sitting up there on the stage, listening to some of these new guys talk about how great they were."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unpopular votes

- Biggio, 20th on the career list with 3,060 hits, appeared on 68.2 per cent of the 569 ballots, the highest total, but 39 votes shy.
- The three newcomers with the highest profiles weren't close to majority support, with Clemens at 37.6 per cent, Bonds at 36.2 and Sosa at 12.5.
- At ceremonies in Cooperstown on July 28, the only inductees will be three men who died more than 70 years ago: Yankees owner Jacob Ruppert, umpire Hank O'Day and barehanded catcher Deacon White. They were chosen last month by the 16-member panel considering individuals from the era before integration in 1947.

Roger Clemens appeared on 37.6 per cent of the 569 ballots. Baseball writers failed to give any player the 75 per cent required for induction to Cooperstown. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

No strings attached

MLB to go wireless with bullpen communication

Even dugouts and bullpens might not need that old landline soon.

Major League Baseball and T-Mobile announced Tuesday that the cellphone company will provide wireless devices that managers and pitching coaches can use to make the call to get relievers warming up.

The wireless phones will have docking stations in both sets of dugouts and bullpens, but managers and coaches can carry them. The signal shuts off if the phones are taken outside those areas.

The wireless phones will automatically ring when pulled from the docking devices, and a swipe when the phone is being carried will make the call as well. Both sets of dugouts and bullpens will have antennas to transmit the signals.

T-Mobile and MLB Advanced Media also are working on other ways to improve digital content for smartphones and tablets. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brady has record for playoff wins in his sights

NFL. If QB gets 17th post-season win vs. Houston, he'll surpass Joe Montana's mark

Tom Brady was just a "kid" in his second pro season when he won his first playoff game.

He'd love to get his 17th on Sunday against the Houston Texans, not to reach the milestone but to advance to the AFC championship game.

So when he was asked on Wednesday if he was aware of the historic significance, he answered: "With that question, I guess I'm aware of it."

Football, Brady said, "is a team game. I've been fortunate to play here and have the opportunity. There's no place I'd rather be."

Brady had been a post-season sensation, winning his first 10 games and three Super Bowls in his first five seasons. Since then, he's 6-6 with no championships.

New England QB Tom Brady
GETTY IMAGES

Still, Brady remains the consistent key to a team that earned its third-straight playoff bye this season, its 10th in a row with at least 10 wins.

"He's won a lot of regular-season games, won a lot of playoff games," coach Bill Belichick said. "What he does on a day-to-day basis, how he performs on the practice field, how he performs in games — whether they're pre-season, regular season, post-season, whatever it is — he's pretty consistent."

Unsteady Texans

- A lopsided loss to the Patriots in December began a slide of three losses in four games for the Texans.
- They won their wild-card game, edging the Cincinnati Bengals 19-13 last Saturday. But they are still playing below the level they established in winning 11 of their first 12.

It was painfully obvious to the Texans (13-4) on Dec. 10 when they came to Gillette Stadium with the NFL's best record. They left with a 42-14 pounding in which Brady had four touchdown passes six minutes into the third quarter.

The Patriots (12-4) have been reminded of that rout constantly this week. And they've constantly downplayed its relevance for Sunday's divisional playoff game.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	23	10	.697	—
New York	23	11	.676	1/2
Indiana	21	14	.600	3
Chicago	19	13	.594	31/2
Atlanta	20	14	.588	31/2
Brooklyn	20	15	.571	4
Milwaukee	17	16	.515	6
Boston	18	17	.514	6
Philadelphia	15	22	.405	10
Toronto	13	22	.371	11
Detroit	13	23	.361	111/2
Orlando	12	22	.353	111/2
Charlotte	9	25	.265	141/2
Cleveland	9	28	.243	16
Washington	5	28	.152	18

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	27	8	.771	—
Oklahoma City	26	8	.765	1/2
San Antonio	27	10	.730	1
Memphis	22	10	.688	31/2
Golden State	22	11	.667	4
Houston	21	15	.583	61/2
Portland	19	15	.559	71/2
Denver	20	16	.556	71/2
Minnesota	16	15	.516	9
Utah	19	18	.514	9
L.A. Lakers	15	19	.441	111/2
Dallas	13	22	.371	14
Sacramento	13	22	.371	14
Phoenix	12	25	.324	16
New Orleans	10	25	.286	17

Wednesday's results
Utah 112 Charlotte 102
Cleveland 99 Atlanta 83
Toronto 90 Philadelphia 72
Boston 87 Phoenix 79
New Orleans 88 Houston 79
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio
Milwaukee at Chicago
Minnesota at Oklahoma City
Orlando at Denver
Dallas at L.A. Clippers
Memphis at Golden State
Tuesday's results
Indiana 87 Miami 77
Brooklyn 109 Philadelphia 89
Milwaukee 108 Phoenix 99
Minnesota 108 Atlanta 103
Houston 125 L.A. Lakers 112
Thursday's games
New York at Indiana, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Miami at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

AHL

Wednesday's games
Syracuse at Rochester
Binghamton at W-B/Scranton
Grand Rapids at Rockford
Tuesday's results
Hamilton 2 Toronto 1
Hershey 4 Bridgeport 3 (OT)
Portland 7 Worcester 3
Thursday's game — All Times Eastern
Lake Erie at San Antonio, 8 p.m.

NFL

PLAYOFFS

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS
Saturday's games — All Times Eastern
AFC — Baltimore at Denver, 4:30 p.m.
NFC — Green Bay at San Francisco, 8 p.m.
Sunday's games
NFC — Seattle at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
AFC — Houston at New England, 4:30 p.m.
CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sunday, Jan. 20
AFC and NFC (Dates and Times TBD)
SUPER BOWL
Sunday, Feb. 3 — At New Orleans, La.
AFC vs. NFC champions, 6 p.m.

SOCCER

SPAIN

COPA DEL REY
Second Leg
Wednesday's results
Sevilla 1, Malaga 2 (Sevilla advances 6-2 on aggregate)
Real Madrid 4, Celta Vigo 0 (Madrid advance 5-2 on aggregate)
Zaragoza 2, Levante 0 (Zaragoza advace 3-0 on aggregate)

ENGLAND

LEAGUE CUP
SEMIFINALS
First Leg
Wednesday's result
Chelsea 0, Swansea City 2

ITALIAN

COPPA ITALIA
Wednesday's result
Juventus 2 AC Milan 1

TENNIS

ATP WORLD TOUR HEINEKEN OPEN
Wednesday's results
At Auckland, New Zealand
Singles
Second Round
Sam Querrey (4), United States, def. Olivier Rochus, Belgium, 7-5, 6-3.
Xavier Malisse, Belgium, def. Santiago Giraldo, Colombia, 7-6 (6), 6-4.
Philipp Kohlschreiber (2), Germany, def. Alejandro Falla, Colombia, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-3.
Lukas Lacko, Slovakia, def. Thomaz Bellucci (8), Brazil, 6-3, 6-5.
Gael Monfils, France, def. Greg Jones, Australia, 6-4, 6-2.
Jesse Levine, Canada, def. Brian Baker, United States, 7-5, 6-4.
Tommy Haas (3), Germany, def. Igor Sijsling, Netherlands, 6-3, 6-4.
David Ferrer (1), Spain, def. Yen-hsun Lu, Taiwan, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

APIA INTERNATIONAL
At Sydney, Australia
Singles
Men
Second Round
Denis Istomin, Uzbekistan, def. Fernando Verdasco (4), Spain, 6-3, 6-3.
Julien Benneteau, France, def. Radek Stepanek (6), Czech Republic, walkover.
Marcel Granollers (8), Spain, def. Fabio Fognini, Italy, 6-2, 7-6 (4).
Kevin Anderson, South Africa, def. Feliciano Lopez, Spain, 6-3, 6-4.
Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, def. Gilles Simon (2), France, 6-3, 6-1.
Ryan Harrison, United States, def. John Isner (1), United States, 6-4, 6-4.
Bernard Tomic, Australia, def. Florian Mayer (5), Germany, 7-6 (4), 6-2.
Andreas Seppi (3), Italy, def. John Millman, Australia, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.
Women
Quarter-finals
Agnieszka Radwanska (1), Poland, def. Roberta Vinci, Italy, 6-4, 7-5.
Dominika Cibulkova, Slovakia, def. Sara Errani (3), Italy, 6-2, 6-1.
Li Na (4), China, def. Madison Keys, United States, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-2.
Angelique Kerber (2), Germany, def. Svetlana Kuznetsova, Russia, 6-3, 7-5.
Doubles
Men
First Round
Mahesh Bhupathi, India, and **Daniel Nestor, Canada**, def. Matthew Ebden and Marinko Matosevic, Australia, 3-6, 7-6 (2), 10-8.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
There is no limit to what you can do over the next few days, but you must have a clear idea of what it is you wish to accomplish. The chance of a lifetime could be heading your way at this very moment.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Listen carefully to what someone tells you today and start thinking of ways you can use this information to make your everyday life more enjoyable. What you do with this knowledge matters more than where it came from.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You have some serious issues to deal with, issues that will determine whether you make a big profit or a big loss. The most important thing is that your aims are realistic. Also, stick to what you are good at.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You are determined to get to the bottom of a situation that has been worrying you for many weeks. What you find may surprise you but it will also help you understand why certain people have been acting strangely.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Pace yourself sensibly today because the planets warn if you don't slow down you could do yourself some harm. If what you put into a task is more than what you get out of it then it's time to stop.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is still a good time of year for you and with Venus now moving through the most dynamic area of your chart romance and creativity are under excellent stars. What does your heart desire most? Go out and get it.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Cosmic activity in the domestic sector of your chart will make it easy to find the words that make a difference when dealing with loved ones and relatives. Always be nice, even when others are not being nice to you.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will turn on the charm today and get anything — yes, anything — you desire. When the mood takes you, as it does now, you know exactly what to say to wrap friends and loved ones round your little finger.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Because you don't like to cause a scene, you may have let someone get away with too much in recent weeks. Now you must get a grip on the situation and make sure they know it was a one-off event.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
People will make a better job of things if you give them the freedom to make decisions. With both the Sun and Venus moving through your sign, you don't have to worry about them getting it wrong.

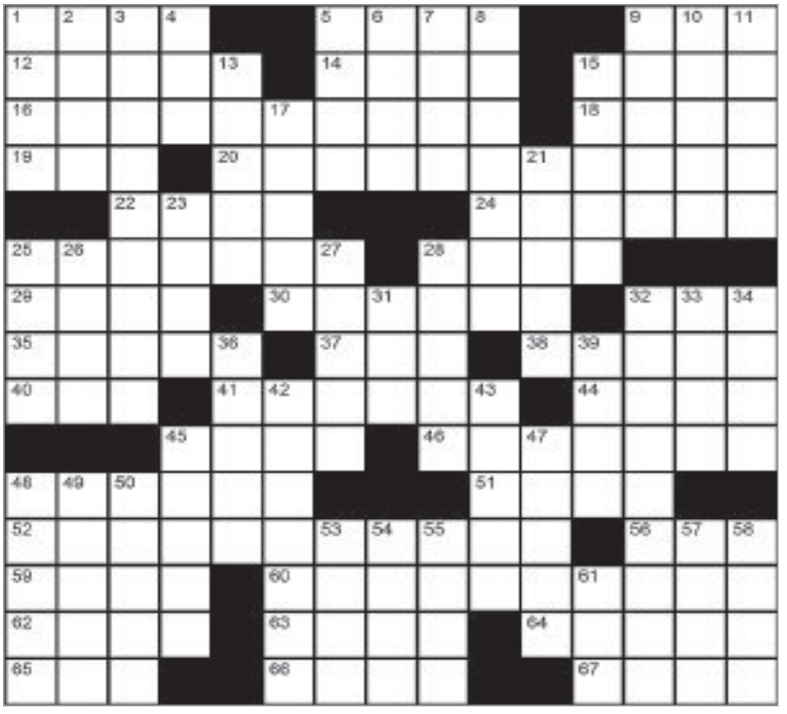
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You must never be afraid to use a few harsh words if you think they are needed, and it seems they are needed now. Partners and work colleagues must be made to realize that you will not be pushed around.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Cosmic activity in some of the more dynamic areas of your chart will give you the energy and the self-belief to put yourself on show over the next 24 hours. Don't worry what others might think – just be yourself.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across & Down

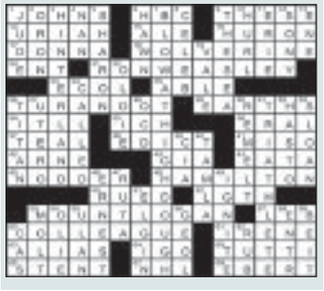
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Peggys __, NS
5. Ottawa-born singer/songwriter Paul
9. 7's phone letters
12. Crunchy
14. Luxury label
15. Character in The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, __ Bones
16. "ET Canada" co-host Rick
18. Capital of Latvia
19. 2-__ tissue
20. "Stompa" is a hit off this Juno-winner's latest album 'Harmony': 2 wds.
22. Ms. MacNeil
24. Good
25. Trend in manicures: 2 wds.
28. Green Gables girl
29. Approx. take-offs
30. Shakespearean verse
32. Angkor __ (Temple in Cambodia)
35. Pool nuisance
37. Pre-__ student
38. Rocker Bryan
40. Affiliation
41. Canadian grocery store chain
44. Diva's vocal
45. Power symbols for Pharaohs
46. Ads-emailed-in-bulk source
48. Maggie Smith's "Downton Abbey" role
51. Nitassinan is their homeland
52. Winnipeg's __ Park
56. French possessive
59. Miss Lane of comics
60. Canadian director David
62. "Before _ __ you go..."
63. $uffix to 'Billion'
64. Heckle
65. Rep.'s political rival
66. Parked cars areas
67. Tori of tunes

Down
1. USSR, to Russians
2. Toothbrush brand, __-B
3. The great victory, and sacrifice, of the Canadian Corps of April 9th to April 12th, 1917: The Battle of __ __
4. Clairvoyance, commonly
5. French aviation pioneer, Clement __
6. Egypt's river
7. City on the Rhein
8. She gave Theseus thread to escape the Minotaur's labyrinth
9. "__ & Prejudice" (2005)
10. Vancouver-born actor Seth
11. Intelligent
13. Penne, for example
15. Actress, __ Dallas Howard
17. Approaches
21. Designer, Oscar de la __
23. Ingrid's "Casablanca" (1942) role
25. "Nifty!"
26. Mythical Hun king
27. Pyramids, pretty much
28. Comic actor Mr. Samberg's
31. Social pages word
32. Canadian __ (Military attraction in Ottawa): 2 wds.
33. Marie-Claire's friend
34. Ivan the Terrible's job
36. German industrial city
39. Rhett's famous word
42. Hakim __ (Eyewear chain)
43. Back
45. Names on it are Brad, Halle, George, etc.
47. Concerning
48. Authenticated
49. River of Brittany in France
50. Susan Aglukark song: "_ __"
53. Vigour
54. Astronomy's __ cloud
55. Chemical suffixes
57. Rubik's Cube inventor, __ Rubik
58. Mil. titles
61. Farm call

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

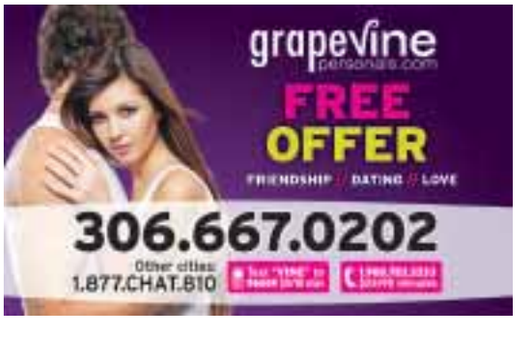
How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

		7	8		2		9	
5		4	9	6		2		
	9						3	6
6			2		1		5	3
	1			8			4	
4	2		3		9			1
7	4						2	
		6		2	3	4		7
	8		5		4	3		

Yesterday's Sudoku

Sharability

easy hard



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